California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

August 26, 2005

ITEM: 15

SUBJECT: Priority Projects for the 2005/06 Consolidated Grants Program

DISCUSSION:
Staff of the SWRCB and its partner agencies are preparing the 2005/06 Consolidated Grants Program, a grant offering that will include:

- Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (Prop 40, Chap 4) - $8.9 Million
- Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (Prop 50, Chap 5) - $6.3 Million
- Coastal Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (Prop 50, Chap 5) - $33.1 Million
- CALFED Drinking Water Program (Prop 50, Chap 5) - $3.4 Million
- CALFED Watershed Program (Prop 50, Chap 7) - $6 Million
- Integrated Watershed Management Program (Prop 40, Chap 4) - $47.5 Million
- Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (Prop 40, Chap 4) - $19 Million
- Urban Stormwater Program (Prop 40, Chap 4) - $14.25 Million
- Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (CWA 319(h)) - $4.5 Million

A total of about **$142.95 million** in grants will be available through this program. Santa Ana Region stakeholders are most likely to be eligible for grants funded through the Coastal Non-Point Source Pollution, CALFED Drinking Water, Integrated Watershed Management, Non-Point Source Pollution Control (both state and federally funded), and Urban Stormwater programs.

The laws authorizing these bond programs require the SWRCB and its partner agencies in these programs to develop processes and procedures to administer distribution of grant funds. To assure that projects selected for grant funding address water quality priorities recognized by the regional boards, the 2005/06 grant proposal solicitation package, now being developed, will include information about each region's priority project needs. Following guidelines developed by a work group[1] designing the 2005/06 Consolidated Grants Program, each region identified its targeted priority projects for this grant offering, and submitted its priority projects listings to the chief of the SWRCB's Division of Financial Assistance by the July 18, 2005, deadline imposed by SWRCB management.

The Santa Ana Region's list of "Priority Projects for the 2005/06 Consolidated Grants Program," is attached.

[1] The work group includes representatives of all regional boards, several SWRCB organizations and programs, and USEPA Region 9

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Region 8)

Priority Projects for the 2005/06 Consolidated Grants Program administered jointly by the SWRCB and other agencies

Watershed Management Area (WMA) Targeted projects

Implement projects that reduce or remove the water-borne pathogen threat posed by discharges from failing on-site subsurface disposal systems (OSDS) to beneficial uses of surface waters throughout the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto River WMA, but primarily in the Quail Valley area of Riverside County. These projects may include providing sanitary sewers or other alternatives to OSDSs and providing assistance to connect to sewers as they become available in the Quail Valley area, and conducting OSDS assessments and preparing OSDS management plans for sub-watersheds and communities throughout the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto River WMA.

In the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto River WMA, plan and implement projects that result in measurable reductions in the loads of sediment, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and pathogens reaching Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore, and that lead to the external/internal load reductions specified in the Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore TMDLs for nitrogen and phosphorus. Develop regional BMPs and a pollutant trading plan that will result in measurable reductions in the load of nutrients discharged into Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore. (These projects will implement TMDLs adopted in 2005 for Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore.)

Implement projects that result in a measurable reduction in the loads of sediment, nutrients, selenium, metals and organochlorine pesticide residues that accumulate and/or bioaccumulate in Reach 1 of San Diego Creek and Upper Newport Bay. (These projects will implement TMDLs adopted in 1998/99 and 2002 for Newport Bay and San Diego Creek.) (Newport Bay WMA)

Implement projects that result in a measurable reduction in the loads of sediment carried by Borrego Wash and Serrano Creek, and other streams that are tributary to Reach 2 of San Diego Creek. (These projects will implement TMDLs adopted in 1998/99 for Newport Bay and San Diego Creek.) (Newport Bay WMA)

Implement projects that result in restoration of beneficial uses in stream reaches at least 1250 feet in length that are tributary to Reach 2 of San Diego Creek. (These projects will implement TMDLs adopted in 1998/99 for Newport Bay and San Diego Creek.) (Newport Bay WMA)

Implement monitoring and other investigations necessary to provide both short and long-term assessments of the presence and biological effects of toxic pollutants in the biota inhabiting the marine ecosystem of Newport Bay, including benthic communities outside of the footprint of US Army Corps of Engineers' dredging projects to maintain navigation channels through the lower bay, and at known toxic hot spots. The goals of these assessments would include providing data relevant to considerations of Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listing/de-listing for one or more toxic pollutants, and measuring the effectiveness of steps that are being taken to implement TMDLs for Newport Bay. (Newport Bay WMA)

Conduct monitoring, bioassessments, and similar investigations that produce data that can be used to support development of TMDLs (or 303(d) delisting) for the following (Anaheim Bay / Huntington Harbour / Bolsa Chica WMA):

Anaheim Bay, for copper, dieldrin, nickel and PCBs;
Huntington Harbour, for pathogens, copper, dieldrin, nickel and PCBs; and,
Bolsa Chica State Beach, for copper and nickel.

In the Middle Santa Ana River WMA, implement projects that result in measurable reductions of pathogens and nutrients in runoff discharged from agricultural and urban (including residential and industrial) sources to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries.

Plan and implement projects that remediate groundwater in the Chino Basin Watershed of the Middle Santa Ana River WMA that has been polluted by discharges of inorganic industrial and agricultural chemicals, with the objective of producing water that meets all applicable primary state standards and goals.

Development and implementation of a lake management plan for Big Bear Lake that has an objective of improving lake capacity and that addresses in comprehensive and coordinated fashion the restoration and protection of the lake's beneficial uses through short and long-term strategies for control and management of nutrients and sediment inputs to the lake and within the lake. (Big Bear Area WMA) This would implement a proposed requirement of the Big Bear Lake sediment/nutrient TMDLs, which will be considered for adoption late 2005/early 2006.

Development and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Big Bear Lake watershed that result in measurable control of nutrient and sediment inputs to Big Bear Lake. (Big Bear Area WMA)

Implementation of in-lake nutrient reduction strategies in Big Bear Lake, including dredging and/or macrophyte control projects. This would implement

a proposed requirement of the Big Bear Lake sediment/nutrient TMDLs, which will be considered for adoption late 2005/early 2006.

Conduct studies, and plan and implement BMPs and management measures, that result in reductions in pathogenic indicator bacteria, improved compliance with applicable beach water quality standards, and fewer beach posting days at beaches adjacent to and up-current of the mouths of Talbert Marsh and the Santa Ana River. (Lower Santa Ana River WMA)

Projects that result in restoration of beneficial uses recognized in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) in and along perennial and ephemeral stream reaches at least 1250 feet in length, or at least 1.5 acres in area, flowing through urbanized areas in the Upper Santa Ana River WMA, including Yucaipa Creek and Oak Glen Creek in Yucaipa, and similar streams.

Projects that result in restoration of beneficial uses recognized in the Basin Plan in and along perennial and ephemeral stream reaches at least 1250 feet in length, or at least 1.5 acres in area, flowing through urbanized areas in the Middle Santa Ana WMA, including Warm Creek (San Bernardino), Sycamore Creek (Riverside), Chino Creek (Chino), and similar streams.

Projects that result in restoration of beneficial uses recognized in the Basin Plan in and along perennial and ephemeral stream reaches at least 1250 feet, or at least 1.5 acres in area, in length flowing through urbanized areas in the Lower Santa Ana WMA, including Carbon Canyon Creek, Santiago Creek, and similar streams.

Projects that result in restoration of beneficial uses recognized in the Basin Plan in and along perennial and ephemeral stream reaches at least 1250 feet in length, or at least 1.5 acres in area, flowing through urbanized areas in the Coyote Creek & Carbon Creek WMA.

Projects that result in restoration of beneficial uses recognized in the Basin Plan in and along perennial and ephemeral stream reaches at least 1250 feet in length, or at least 1.5 acres in area, flowing through urbanized areas in the Newport Bay WMA, including the Santa Ana Delhi.

In the Chino Basin of the Middle Santa Ana River WMA, implement projects that improve the quality of groundwater that has been degraded by historic agricultural and dairy practices. While the long-term objective of these projects is to meet Basin Plan water quality objectives for nitrate-nitrogen and total dissolved solids, the desired outcome of these projects is a significant, quantifiable reduction in groundwater NO^3 –N and TDS levels in the groundwater management zones where the projects occur.

In the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto River WMA, implement projects that improve the quality of groundwater that has been degraded by historic agricultural and dairy practices. While the long-term objective of these projects is to meet Basin Plan water quality objectives for nitrate-nitrogen and total dissolved solids, the desired outcome of these projects is a significant, quantifiable reduction in groundwater NO^3 –N and TDS levels in the treated groundwater management zones where the projects occur.

Multiple WMA or Region-wide projects

In support of WARM, COLD, RARE, WILD, SPWN, MAR, SHEL and EST beneficial uses, projects that protect, restore and/or enhance aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat and habitat connectivity, particularly habitat of rare, threatened and endangered species, regionwide.

Regionwide, removal and prevention of invasive, exotic aquatic and riparian vegetation to enhance and protect water quality standards, including habitat and recreation beneficial uses.

Projects that lead to or result in measurable reductions in the load of pollutants carried by urban runoff discharges that cause, or threaten to cause, violations of beach water quality standards, in the following WMAs: Anaheim Bay / Huntington Harbour / Bolsa Chica; Newport Bay; and, Lower Santa Ana River.